



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**JANUARY 11, 2005**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FIVE INDEPENDENCE, KC RESIDENTS INDICTED FOR OXYCONTIN CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that five co-defendants were indicted today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute Oxycontin.

**Billy Joe Thompson**, 29, **Carla S. Whisler**, 35, and **Jarod Call**, 20, all of Independence, and **James Hardy**, 52, and **Bucksley Barnhill**, 23, both of Kansas City, were charged with conspiring to distribute at least 300 grams of Oxycontin, a controlled substance only available by prescription.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Marquez. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, and the U.S. Marshal's Office.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)